

This comment pertains specifically to AM radio band transmission and reception. General use of IBOC digital audio transmission schemes and processes should not be permitted. In particular, nighttime broadcasts of this kind should never be considered. Rural reception of distant and even local AM signals will be harmed. This interference, bizarre buzzing, can be easily observed in metropolitan regions.

In my community, I know of one AM signal that carries digital content. It splatters many kiloHertz on both sides of its assigned frequency. If this system were in general use, the AM band would be, simply, a mess. Fortunately, it is not carrying HD audio full time. This type of operation is just not acceptable. I am and have long been a listener of AM broadcasts from the whole Eastern United States. This access would no longer exist with widely used transmission of this kind.

I believe that the FCC is gradually discouraging widespread use of free communications of all types. The HD process will eventually be permitted to become secure transmissions, available only to paid subscribers. The medium of electronic transmission was, long ago, declared to be a public facility. It is, step by step, coming under corporate control.